

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-10 are pending. Claims 1, 5, 6, 7, and 9 are amended. No new matter has been introduced. Reexamination and reconsideration of the present application are respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for participating in the telephonic interview conducted on December 12, 2005.

In the July 13, 2005 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 3-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki, U.S. Patent No. 5,777,249 (hereinafter Suzuki) in view of Suzuki, et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,916,996 (hereinafter Suzuki et al.). (*July 13 Office Action, page 2*) Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections in view of the claims as amended.

Independent claim 1, as amended, now recites:

A tone generator system which generates at least one musical tone in response to a channel ***by using a program number based on tone color changing instruction data designating a tone color of the corresponding channel which is stored in predetermined timing before a sounding instruction data***, the tone color changing instruction data including a channel number and a corresponding program number, and the sounding instruction data including the channel number, comprising:

- a first waveform storage that stores compressed waveform data, each of the stored compressed waveform data being readable based on the corresponding program number;

- a second waveform storage;

- a supplying section that supplies the tone color changing instruction data derived from musical composition data to be reproduced, and then supplies the sounding instruction data derived from the musical composition data to be reproduced;

- a decoder that is responsive to the tone color changing instruction data supplied from said supplying section, ***for reading out from said first waveform storage the compressed waveform data based on the program number included in the supplied tone color changing instruction data***, for decoding the readout compressed waveform data into waveform data in a pulse code modulation format, and for storing the decoded waveform data in the pulse code modulation format into said second waveform storage, each of the stored decoded waveform data being readable based on the corresponding channel number; and

- a tone generator section that is responsive to the sounding instruction data supplied from said supplying section, for reading out from said second waveform storage

the waveform data in the pulse code modulation formation, based on the channel number included in the supplied sounding instruction data, and for generating musical tones based on the readout waveform data in the pulse code modulation format.

The Suzuki reference does not disclose, teach or suggest the tone generator system specified in independent claim 1, as amended. As the Examiner has acknowledged, independent claim 1 is distinct from Suzuki because Suzuki does not teach a second waveform storage.

In addition, unlike the tone generator system specified in independent claim 1, as amended, Suzuki does not teach “a decoder that is responsive to the tone color changing instruction data supplied from said supplying section, *for reading out from said first waveform storage the compressed waveform data based on the program number included in the supplied tone color changing instruction data*, for decoding the readout compressed waveform data into waveform data in a pulse code modulation format, and for storing the decoded waveform data in the pulse code modulation format into said second waveform storage, each of the stored decoded waveform data being readable based on the corresponding channel number.”

Instead, Suzuki is directed to electronic musical instruments which synthesize musical tones based on waveform information stored in waveform memories. (*Suzuki; Abstract; and Col. 1, lines 7-9*) Suzuki discloses an electronic musical instrument with a function for recording and reproducing musical tones using compressed waveform data. (*Suzuki; Col. 2, lines 48-64*) The R/W control signal is generated by the control section CONT which receives the performance-designating signal PLAY, the excitation-waveform data are read out from the excitation-waveform memory DM in response to the generated R/W control signal, and original waveform data are decoded based on the read

out excitation-waveform data. (Suzuki; Col. 5, lines 5-17) The excitation-waveform data of c bits are read from the area designated by the address MA in the excitation-waveform memory DM. Read data, are supplied to the second decoder DEC2 as a read waveform MW and expanded to original data DW of m bits, which are introduced into the second loop circuit via a second adder ADD3 and a signal exciting the second loop circuit.

(Suzuki; Col. 5, lines 5-17) However, Suzuki discloses that the excitation waveform data of c bits are read from the area in the excitation-waveform memory DM based on the R/W control signal generated by the control section CONT in response to the performance-designating signal PLAY received from the tone-color-setting section TS, which is not the same as a system having “a decoder that is responsive to the tone color changing instruction data supplied from said supplying section, *for reading out from said first waveform storage the compressed waveform data based on the program number included in the supplied tone color changing instruction data*, for decoding the readout compressed waveform data into waveform data in a pulse code modulation format, and for storing the decoded waveform data in the pulse code modulation format into said second waveform storage, each of the stored decoded waveform data being readable based on the corresponding channel number.”(hereinafter “decoder limitation”) Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1, as amended distinguishes over Suzuki.

Suzuki et al. does not make up for the deficiencies of Suzuki. Suzuki et al. discloses that after a key-depression detecting circuit 138 outputs a key-on signal KON, sum data (the sum data of the start address SA and the count data from an address counter 140) is outputted to the data memory 135 as address data AD, the data memory

successively outputs the quantized difference code C(n) of the attack portions ATC (i.e. compressed data representative of attack portions of musical tone waveforms) to the decoding circuit. (*Suzuki et al.*; Col. 16, line 44 – Col. 17, line 24) As such, Suzuki et al., merely discloses that the compressed data representative of attack portions of musical tone waveforms are read out from the data memory 135, based on the key on signal KON. Thus, the combination of Suzuki and Suzuki et al., does not disclose, teach or suggest the decoder limitation.

Applicant notes that this distinction is significant because the system specified in claim 1 eliminates the time lag from note-on to the start of sounding, unlike Suzuki and Suzuki et al. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as amended distinguishes over Suzuki in combination with Suzuki et al.

Claims 5 and 6, both as amended, recite similar limitations to independent claim 1, as amended. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 5 and 6 distinguish over Suzuki in combination with Suzuki et al. for reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, as amended.

Claims 3-4, 7-8 and 9-10 depend from independent claims 1, 5, and 6, as amended, respectively. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3-4, 7-8 and 9-10 distinguish over Suzuki in combination with Suzuki et al. for the same reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 1, 5, and 6, respectively.

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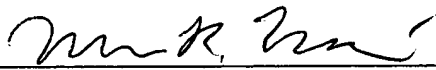
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Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance should the Examiner believe that such a telephone conference call would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 13, 2005

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